



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

NOVEMBER 2004

FOR MILWAUKEE/WOW COUNTIES

MILWAUKEE, WASHINGTON, OZAUKEE AND WAUKESHA COUNTIES

MILWAUKEE-WAUKESHA CONTINUES TO SHOW IMPROVEMENT IN JOB NUMBERS

Milwaukee County's unemployment rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point in October to 5.8 percent. In fact, the unemployment rates in every county in the Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA dropped one-tenth of a point from September to October. October continued to show improvement from an annual perspective with almost 9,900 more employed and 2,900 fewer unemployed residents. The

current unemployment rate is seven-tenths lower than it was in October 2003.

Washington County's October unemployment rate was 3.5 percent. This is lower, monthly, by one-tenth and lower by seven-tenths, annually. Washington's labor force has over 1,400 more employed coupled with about 400 fewer unemployed residents than

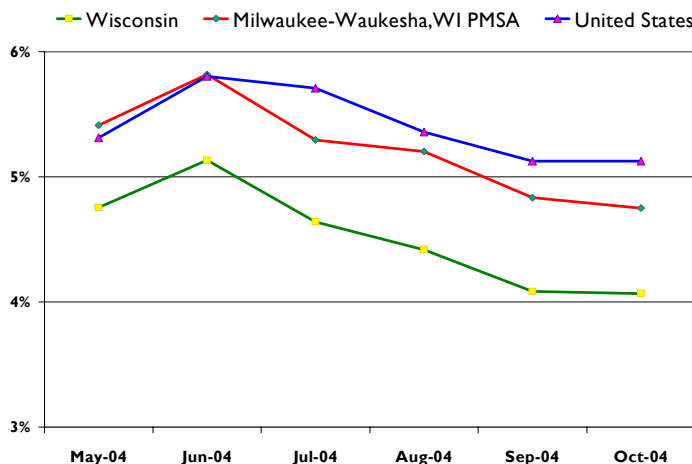
at this time of the year in 2003.

Ozaukee County had the second lowest county-level unemployment rate in Wisconsin in October at 2.5 percent. This ranking is common for Ozaukee as it usually registers second-lowest compared to Dane County. Ozaukee County has continued to show the largest annual drop in unemployment rate of the metro area's counties, lower than last October's rate by 1.4 percent point. This annual rate decrease represents over 1,000 more employed and close to 700 fewer unemployed Ozaukee residents.

Waukesha County's unemployment rate was 3.2 percent in October. In comparison to October 2003, the county has 4,500 more employed and 1,200 fewer unemployed residents and an unemployment rate that is six-tenths of a percentage point lower than it was in October 2003.

The **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) in October was

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA counties: October 2004

	Wisconsin			Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA			Milwaukee County		
	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03
Labor force	3,109,532	3,102,200	3,079,632	835,064	835,515	823,368	494,410	494,678	487,410
Employed	2,983,026	2,975,496	2,939,985	795,399	795,125	778,539	465,545	465,384	455,677
Unemployed	126,506	126,704	139,647	39,665	40,390	44,829	28,865	29,294	31,733
% Unemployed	4.1%	4.1%	4.5%	4.7%	4.8%	5.4%	5.8%	5.9%	6.5%
	Washington County			Ozaukee County			Waukesha County		
	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03	Oct-04	Sep-04	Oct-03
Labor force	70,848	70,841	69,810	49,316	49,332	48,965	220,489	220,664	217,182
Employed	68,333	68,310	66,885	48,068	48,052	47,049	213,453	213,379	208,928
Unemployed	2,515	2,531	2,925	1,248	1,280	1,916	7,036	7,285	8,254
% Unemployed	3.5%	3.6%	4.2%	2.5%	2.6%	3.9%	3.2%	3.3%	3.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for the Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA: October 2004

Place of Work Employment in 1,000's	Wisconsin			Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA		
	Oct. 2004	Change since Sep. 2004	Change since Oct. 2003	Oct. 2004	Change since Sep. 2004	Change since Oct. 2003
All Industries	2,867.9	13.2	58.0	849.9	1.2	11.8
Construction/Natural Resources	137.3	-0.3	2.6	33.9	0.6	-1.5
Manufacturing	519.8	-0.3	16.4	136.1	0.5	2.1
Retail Trade	328.2	3.9	3.7	82.5	1.4	1.3
Wholesale Trade	118.7	0.5	4.7	41.8	0.5	2.3
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	109.5	0.0	1.3	32.3	0.5	1.4
Financial Activities	161.7	0.1	2.8	61.4	-0.3	1.9
Education and Health Services	380.2	0.8	5.9	136.9	0.6	2.6
Leisure and Hospitality	251.5	-8.0	6.5	66.2	-2.7	1.4
Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services	446.6	0.1	18.0	168.6	-2.4	4.4
Information	47.7	0.1	-1.5	19.3	0.2	-0.1
Professional and Business Services	268.9	-0.4	20.1	110.4	-2.5	5.8
Other Services	130.0	0.4	-0.6	38.9	-0.1	-1.3
Fed/State/Local Government	414.4	16.4	-3.9	90.2	2.5	-4.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

4.7 percent and follows suit with the component counties as its rate has dropped one-tenth of a percentage point since September. The labor force in the metro area has continued its annual improvement with close to 17,000 more employed residents in its ranks and over 5,000 fewer unemployed. The unemployment rate is seven-tenths of a percentage point lower than it was in October 2003.

The 'jobs count' from the nonfarm wage and salary survey tallied 849,900 total jobs in the **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** in October. The total is up slightly, 1,200 jobs, since September. The months of September and October typically show at least some overall job increase compared to the previous month, but the volume of change can be erratic from year to year. A general reason for these variances is that the economy's movement from the summertime to the school year shows is a large transition with some industries dramatically reducing employment and others increasing. In many instances the reduction of a particular sector's summer employment may not be captured until the October survey data is released. At the same time, many sectors' September hiring may

not register in the survey until October's figures are measured.

The monthly industry survey shows a net increase of 1,200 jobs in October. Local government had the month's largest employment gain of 2,500 jobs. Educational services, reflecting privately-owned educational institutions showed the second largest increase with 1,700 jobs. The monthly gains in these industries can fluctuate from year to year depending upon the start of the school year and the month that the actual hiring is done. Manufacturing and construction employment showed gains of 500 and 600 jobs, respectively, in October. The construction gain was only the third time in the last ten years that this sector has shown growth in October. Manufacturing employment has shown monthly employment gains in six of the ten months of 2004. Leisure and hospitality showed the largest employment decline (-2,700 jobs). Professional and business services followed close behind with a loss of 2,500 jobs. Health care and social assistance employment decreased over the month by 1,100 jobs.

Employment growth over the year has continued for the seventh straight

month as the metro area shows net growth of 11,800 jobs compared to October 2003. The sectors leading the way to annual growth were professional and business services with 5,800 more jobs, total trade with 3,600 more jobs,, educational and health services with 2,600 additional jobs and manufacturing with 2,100 more jobs. Manufacturing had annual gains in both durable and nondurable goods industry employment. Total privately owned employment showed a gain of 15,900 jobs annually. Total government owned employment shows an annual decrease of 4,100 jobs. Other industry sectors annually decreasing in employment were construction (-1,600 jobs), other services (-1,300 jobs), and there was a slight loss in the information sector, -100 jobs.

Direct questions and comments to:

Eric Grosso, State Labor Economist

201 East Washington Avenue

Room A400

Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Phone: 608.266.7034

e-mail: eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us

Find the most current labor market info at:

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oea/>